



# Who's Moving to Dixie?

While recent population estimates show that Utah County has dethroned Washington County as the fastest growing county in Utah, this southern Utah county's rapid growth still engenders speculation about just who is moving to Utah's Dixie. After all, in the past 30 years, the county has managed to almost double its population every decade.

Thanks to the demographic information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, we now have an unprecedented chance to determine just who is relocating to Washington County. Keep in mind that these are permanent residents, rather than those with "second" homes in the area. Yet, the answers may surprise you.

While 2005 represented the height of the building boom in the St. George area, 2006 also registered strong in-migration. However, in both years what group did the most moving? Current residents. In 2006, 45 percent of movers already lived within the county. During that same year, 29 percent of movers arrived from other Utah counties, while another 21 percent relocated from other states. That's a switch from 2005, when out-of-state movers outnumbered out-of-county Utah movers. Finally, in 2006, about 5 percent of new residents arrived from other countries.

And guess what? All those people moving in weren't exactly seniors. In fact, almost one-third of incoming residents from other Utah counties fell in the 25-34 year-old category, 24 percent were 18-24 years old and 25 percent were under the age of 18. Only 3 percent of those moving from other Utah counties were aged 65 or older.

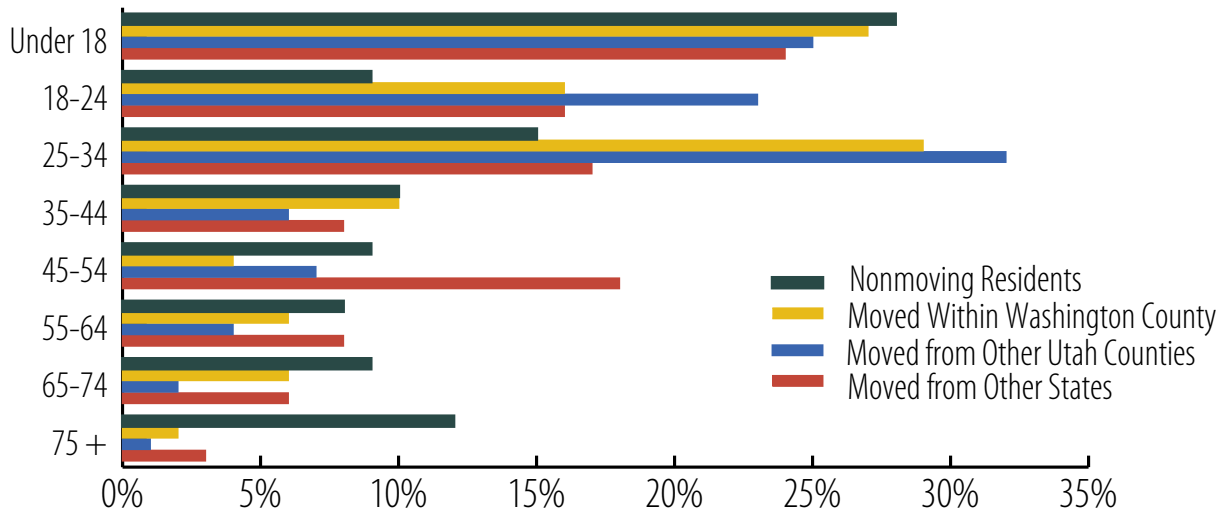
Those moving from other states tended to be only somewhat more mature. About 18 percent were between the ages 45 and 54. However, roughly 57 percent of those moving from other states were under the age of 35. Only 9 percent were 65 and older.

Other interesting facts revealed by the American Community Survey:

- About 60 percent of those moving to Utah are married.
- Adults moving from a different state tend to have higher levels of education.
- Adults moving from abroad have very low levels of formal schooling.
- Those moving from out-of-state showed the highest poverty rates. This may be because retiree move-ins are asset rich, but "income" poor. For example, many early retirees may own nice homes, cars, boats, and have large bank accounts--they have lots of assets and everything is paid for. However, poverty rates are assessed based only on current income not assets. Retirees actual income (pension payments, social security, interest payments) may be relatively low..
- Only about one-half of those moving from out-of-state owned their own home, compared to 80 percent for those who did not move. ⓘ

For more information see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/>

## 2006 Age of Washington County Residents by Residence One Year Ago



Source: U.S. Census, Bureau, American Community Survey.

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## Migration of Washington County Residents

